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DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:MEBARNES
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TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 227288
E.O. 12065:GDS 8/26/86 (FINLEY, M)
TAGS: JM, PINS
SUBJECT: NOFFICIAL ELECTION OBSERVERS
REF: (A) KINGSTON 5937 (B) BONN 15448 (C) STATE 213480

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY RB DATE 25 JUN 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

1. AS A MATTER OF POLICY, THE USG SUPPORTS THE USE OF IMPARTIAL ELECTION OBSERVERS. IN JAMAICA, THE INTRODUCTION OF IMPARTIAL, FOREIGN OBSERVERS COULD HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT DECREASING THE LEVEL OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE BY MAKING ALL SEGMENTS OF JAMAICAN SOCIETY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE THE INTERNAT ONAL COMMINITY ATTACHES TO THE ELECTION AND THE PRESENCE OF OBSERVERS, AND WOULD HEIGHTEN THE CREDIBILITY OF THE ELECTORAL RESULTS.
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2. WE DO NOT WISH TO INSERT OURSELVES IN THE JAMAICAN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AND WE SHOULD NOT BE ADVISING ANYONE IN JAMAICA OF ANY INTENT TO SEND OBSERVERS OR OF THE PRESENCE OF OBSERVERS. IT WOULD BE UP TO THE OBSERVERS TO DEAL WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMATCA.
3. AFTER THE CREATION OF A NON-PARTISAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION WHOSE GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL WORK HAS BEEN FAVORABLY VIEWED BY ALL SIDES, IT IS REGRETABLE THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN UNWILLING TO ACCEPT OBSERVERS. UNFORTUNATELY, IN JAMAICA THE INTRODUCTION OF OBSERVERS HAS BECOME A PARTISAN POLITICAL ISSUE, WITH THE JLP FAVORING OBSERVERS AND THE PNP OPPOSED.
4. IN OUR VTEW, GOJ RELUCTANCE SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, PRECLUDE AN EFFORT BY CONCERNED ORGANIZATIONS TO SEND OBSERVERS. AS FAR AS CU OBSERVERS ARE CONCERNED, THEY WOULD BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE JLP. OBVIOUSLY, GERMAN OBSERVERS WOULD BE MORE CREDIBLE IF THEY WERE CLEARLY NONPARTISAN. THEREFORE, DEPART-

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MENT WOULD LIKE EMBASSY BONN TO ENCOURAGE CONSIDERATION BY THE CDU AND SPD OF A JOINT TEAM OF OBSERVERS. [redacted] (b)(1) ED; b(5)

IN LIGHT OF THE SPD'S SPECIAL CHANNEL TO MANLEY IT MIGHT NOW BE USEFUL FOR THE EMBASSY TO RAISE ISSUE OF OBSERVERS WITH SPD STATING OUR VIEW OF THEIR POTENTIALLY SALUTORY IMPACT AND SUGGESTING THE SPD DISCUSS WITH MANLEY THE POSITIVE ROLE OF OBSERVERS AND ENCOURAGING THE SPD TO CONSIDIER PARTICIPATING IN A BIPARTISAN GROUP OF OBSERVERS. AT THE SAME TIME EMBASSY SHOULD [redacted] PASS ALONG THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW THAT OBSERVERS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL WHILE (b)(1) ED; b5

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NOTING THAT A NON-PARTISAN EFFORT WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE. DEPARTMENT IS NOT ENDORSING CDU PROPOSAL OF HAVING OBSERVERS GO AS TOURISTS. MUSKIE
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